

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4 & Page 5, lines 1-8:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

~~It is therefore the primary object of the present invention to provide a digital still camera (DSC) with combined still and motion image capabilities with a minimum of hardware complexity.~~

~~It is another object of the present invention to provide an inexpensive and efficient method of operating a digital still camera that allows the user to generate still and motion images.~~

In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention a camera includes a housing and a lens mounted in the housing for transmitting therethrough light from objects and scenes of interest. An image sensor is mounted in the housing for receiving the light transmitted through the lens and generating output signals representative of an image of an object or a scene of interest. A manually actuable ON/OFF control is mounted in the housing. A processing circuit is mounted in the housing and is connected to the image sensor for processing the output signals from the image sensor in response to user actuation of the ON/OFF control. A control circuit is mounted in the housing and is connected to the processing circuit. The control circuit selectively generates a first sequence of high resolution still image files or a second sequence of low resolution still image files and stores the image files in a memory in accordance with a predetermined still image data compression standard. The control circuit selectively executes firmware for retrieving the low resolution image files from the memory, converts the low resolution image files to a motion video sequence in accordance with a predetermined motion image data compression standard, and stores the motion video sequence for later display.

~~The method of the present invention involves selectively generating a first sequence of high resolution still image files or a second sequence of low resolution still image files and storing the image files in the memory in accordance with a predetermined still image data compression standard. The method further involves selectively retrieving the low resolution image files from~~

~~the memory. The method further involves converting the low resolution image files to a motion video sequence in accordance with a predetermined motion image data compression standard, the conversion being performed with firmware, and storing the motion video sequence for later display. an image sensor mounted in a housing for receiving light and generating output signals representative of an image. A circuit processes the output signals in response to actuation of a shutter button mounted in the housing. A control circuit is connected to the processing circuit for selectively generating a first sequence of high resolution still image files or a second sequence of low resolution still image files and for executing firmware to convert the second sequence into a motion video sequence.~~

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Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a digital camera in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention that has both motion and still mode capabilities.

Page 6, lines 6-17:

Referring to Figs. 5 and 6, a digital still camera (DSC) 10 constructed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown in perspective, and block diagram form, respectively. The camera 10 is capable of transferring digital images to a printer 12 (Fig. 6) via cable connection, removable memory or wireless transmission. Referring to Fig. 5, the camera 10 includes a compact, generally rectangular outer plastic camera body or housing 14 that encloses and supports the operative components of the camera in conventional fashion. A lens 16 is mounted in a forward side wall of the housing 14 for transmitting therethrough light from objects and scenes of interest. An eyepiece 17a (Figs. 5 and 6) on the rear side wall of the housing 14 forms part of a view finder that allows the user to view objects and/or scenes of interest through the lens 16 or to view electronically recorded images displayed on a small, internal color liquid crystal display (LCD) 17b (Fig. 6). This is accomplished using a pair of pivoting mirrors (not illustrated) inside of the housing 14.

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The ~~present invention~~ preferred embodiment thus provides a DSC with a motion capture mode which does not employ separate JPEG and MPEG hardware circuits. The DSC 10 will not

only take conventional high resolution still images, but also can be set to a motion capture mode in which a succession of low resolution images are rapidly taken and stored in a separate directory in the memory 44. Once the motion capture mode operation is completed, the processor in the camera runs special firmware micro-code that reads in the sequence of low resolution JPEG images and outputs a single file that comprises an MPEG motion video segment. The JPEG still images from which the MPEG file was made are erased so as not to unduly consume the available data storage space. The MPEG motion video sequence is stored in the memory 44 for later replay.

Page 13, lines 4-16:

A plurality of manually actuatable controls 62, 64, 66a, 66b, 68, 70a and 70b (Figs. 5 and 6) are mounted in the outer surface of the camera housing 14 so that they can be readily manipulated by the fingers of the user while viewing the informational display 56. By way of example, the manually actuatable controls 62, 64, 66a, 66b, 68, 70a and 70b may be of the pushbutton type. The pushbutton 62 it may be depressed to power the camera ON and OFF. The pushbutton 64 may be assigned the shutter button function. When the camera 10 is in its still mode, the pushbutton 64 may be temporarily depressed and released in order take a single still picture. When the camera 10 is in its motion mode, the shutter button 64 may be pushed and held down to take a motion video sequence. The still and motion modes are selected through the GUI. The control circuit 30 generates a sequence of high resolution still image files in response to each momentary actuation of the ~~ON/OFF-control~~ shutter button 64 and generates a sequence of low resolution still image files in response to the ~~ON/OFF-control~~ shutter button 64 being actuated and held in an ON condition for a predetermined duration longer than a momentary actuation.